

WE CLAIM:

1. A multi-information-character surveillance imaging system comprising
a plural-imager housing-contained assembly of surveillance imagers including (a)
an optical, daytime, color video imager, (b) an optical, nighttime, light-intensified, black-
5 and-white video imager, and (c) a thermal imager, each of said imagers being provided
with computer-adjustable imager parameters control structure,
computer-controllable, motor-actuatable mounting structure operatively mounting
and supporting the housing-contained imager assembly for selective and controlled
surveillance tracking via generally vertical panning and generally horizontal tilting
10 motions,
a computer, and
a user-operable controller interface operatively interposed said mounting
structure, said imager parameter control structures in said imagers, and said computer,
said interface including a touch-screen display device touchable by a user to effect
15 computer-implemented imager parameter adjustments, and a joystick instrument
manipulable by a user to effect computer-controlled, motor-driven surveillance tracking
motions of said assembly.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said interface is also structured, via said
20 touch-screen display device, to enable free and variable user selection of the specific
imager, or plural imagers, which are to perform imagery tracking and surveillance at any
given point in time.

3. The system of claim 2 which further includes screen imagery display structure which is operatively connected effectively to at least a portion of that structure with respect to which said computer is operatively interposed, said display structure
5 being operable to display visual, surveillance imagery information selectively drawn from any one or more of said imagers.

4. A multi-information-character, surveillance-imaging enabling method comprising
furnishing a capability for gathering plural-mode imagery employing (a) a
computer-controllable, optical, daytime, color video imager, (b) a computer-controllable
optical, nighttime, light-intensified, black-and-white video imager, and (c) a computer-
5 controllable thermal imager, where computer-controllability regarding these imagers
includes the capabilities of varying the respective imagers' operating parameters, and
coordinatedly, and simultaneously, panning and tilting the imagers' points of view,
operatively connecting a computer to the furnished computer-controllable
imagers, and
10 providing a one-hand-enabling, user-operable controller interface which is
operatively connected to the computer, and which includes a touch-screen display device
touchable by a user to effect computer-implemented imager operating-parameter
adjustments, and a joystick instrument manipulable by a user to effect computer-
controlled, coordinated, simultaneous panning and tilting of the imagers' points of view.